NEWS RELEASE



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District: District 2 - Redding
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Transportation Plan Public Information Workshop in Redding

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is updating the California Transportation Plan and needs public input. In order to enhance stakeholder engagement and to allow the opportunity for public comment on the Draft CTP 2030 Addendum, a public meeting is scheduled in Redding on April 18, 2007 beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the McConnell Foundation, 800 Shasta View Drive. For more information on the Redding workshop, please call Tamy Quigley at 225-3478. Additional information on the workshops is available at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/osp/ctp.htm.

Caltrans is updating the CTP to meet new requirements established by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU. This federal legislation authorizes funding for transit and highways statewide. Much of SAFETEA-LU echoes previous legislation; however, there are some significant changes that impact the California Transportation Plan that was adopted in June 2006.

The most significant changes require that the CTP address consultation with State, tribal and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation. The consultation process involves the sharing of plans, maps, and data among agencies. The goal of this process is to better preserve our valuable state resources while avoiding costly project overruns and delays.

This update will also address the requirement to link transportation planning and environmental planning efforts, helping ensure that projects meet the "purpose and need" as agreed to by a full range of stakeholders, from early planning through construction of the project.

Caltrans recognizes the value of public outreach in gaining consensus early in the planning process. Public engagement enables the State and local and regional agencies to minimize opposition, litigation, and the need to redesign or relocate projects, while simultaneously building public support for plans and projects that serve the public interest.

Workshops will be supplemented by an internet-based service to make information available to the public and allow the option of providing comments in a survey format. Caltrans will also be mailing postcards notifying stakeholders and the public on how to provide input.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm